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Water Diplomacy in a Changing World: Adapting to New Paradigm Shifts, and the Need for New Innovative Tools

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Introduction

Med Agenda intends, in this article, to address the state of the world's water in the 21st Century in its complexities, in relation to diplomacy and in its theories and practices. Diplomacy is a science and an art, in a wider sense, of managing and conducting relations among nations. *The main assumption* here, is that significant paradigmatic changes occurred in the second half of the last century in a variety of disciplines: the theory of relativity, Darwin's theory, quantum mechanics, organic chemistry, computers, informatics, logic, and post modernism. Influenced by all these, is water diplomacy starting to be studied as a multi-disciplinary and meta-disciplinary science, and within the framework of complexity, as a new discipline?

Major works and research in this complexity approach agree that every connection is valid, every analogy acceptable and that nature system and human system are complex dynamic systems, in their interface and interaction, and becoming more influenced by the complexity science.[1] Indeed, system analysis and system thinking approaches could help in better handling of water conflict management and negotiation, as well as assisting in finding leverages to mitigate and ultimately resolve such conflicts. *In my view, we need further research and studies in this area and how it could be best integrated in the overall discipline of strategic thinking and strategy dynamic.*

The advent of the *Istanbul Fifth World Water Forum* in March 2009 represents a special occasion in which the international community will examine anew *the state of the world's water and respond to* the questions that matter. The following questions will be the main focus of this Med Agenda article.

- *What is the state of the world's water? Is the water crisis real or is it a myth?* Is it reaching a staggering point of a magnitude that is threatening world peace and security in the 21st Century? If so, *what could be the impact on diplomacy in theory and practice?*.
- *What about the Arab Regional Water Realities?*
- *Is diplomacy coping with these developments in the water arena since* new paradigm shifts are emerging? Most notably, the worldwide adoption and implementation of the concept of integrated water resources management. *In this case is water diplomacy starting to have a theoretical monopoly? Or does it need to be a separate discipline in itself?*
- The fourth angle of these questions is *on how diplomats, in practice, will cope with the emerging trends of the new world water developments?* Do we need new skills for water negotiation? Do we need a shared language of different concepts and jargon? Do we need new approaches and methods in dealing with water conflicts? Suggesting some innovative tools for application, and tips for gaining success in water negotiation.
- *In conclusion, what is new in the 5th World Water Forum, in Istanbul, Turkey (March 2009)? The main theme this time is "Bridging Divides for Water"*. It seems that the theme represents

a new focus, and a new shift in concept and methodology, if compared with the last Four Rounds of WWF.

So, *the main focus of this Med Agenda article* is on dealing with these questions, in their sequence and as they relate to each other, keeping in mind that *diplomacy and water diplomacy* are *a strategic tool* for enhancing cooperation among nations.

I. The State of the World's Water in the 21st Century

Reviewing literature, it is well recognized that the water scene of the 21st century is confronted with profound changes. Complexity, vulnerability and uncertainty, and these are becoming the order of today. This is because of the fast pace of scientific and technological development, as well as the ongoing globalization processes of world production and markets, the climatic changes, the transboundary dependencies, and the changing socio-political context in dealing with water challenges. So, the water sector is becoming more sensitive and vulnerable to these changes. In the meantime, water resources are planned and managed under a higher degree of uncertainty.

Is the World Water Crisis a Reality or a Myth?

This controversial question has been a major inquiry of an important workshop by the Marcelino Botin Foundation[2], on "Water Crisis: Myth or Reality?" (Peter P. Rogers et al, 2004). The authors questioned what was repeatedly said as a cliché "world water crisis", they forwarded the following argument:

> "Everyday we are bombarded by the media with tales of gloom and doom – we are running out of water, petroleum, open space, clean air, arable land, etc. While there is good reason to be wary of some of the potential outcomes of these prognostications, the reader should be encouraged to remember that *forecasts* are not *destiny*. The human race has an uncanny knack of proving the doomsayers wrong. This certainly goes back at least as far as the 18th century of Malthus and his gloomy predications of widespread famine unless there were wars and epidemics to curb the natural growth of population."
>
> "To be sure, there have been many wars and epidemics since Malthus's time, too many, nevertheless the population of the globe continued its giddying increase. The outcome is that 200 years after Malthus, the population has increased several-fold and enjoys greater longevity and health than it enjoyed in his times. Of course, there are more poor people on the globe today than the total population at Malthus's time; that is bad, but there are also many more people who would be considered to be *living like kings* in Malthus's time. Is this good? Both poverty and affluence stress the environment in ways that Malthus could never have envisaged.[3]

The conclusions made by The Marcelino Botin Foundation Workshop were as follow:

> Increased demands on finite global sources of fresh water have led many international and national agencies to define a *Global Water Crisis* that merits drastic, immediate, large-scale action. This argument of pessimism has been challenged, concluding that, *"while there are serious global water issues to be considered, the concept of a global crisis is largely a myth."*
>
> The workshop made *Emphasis on both hard technical and soft socio-political solutions.* It elaborated on when and where severe regional and local water problems occur, and made suggestions about how they may be dealt with in a deliberate, non-crisis manner. "*Recent breakthroughs in desalination technologies, the eco-sanitation revolution, and international trade in agricultural products, methods of governance and negotiation in water allocation, and pricing and devolution of property rights are presented as indications that the idea of a global water crisis of monumental proportions is largely exaggerated."*

I fully share the views of these conclusions, and believe that "*forecasts are not destiny*". At the beginning of the 1970s, we experienced with the Club of Rome such negative prognostics of doom with regard to water and other natural resources. It is more convincing, what the workshop of Botin Foundation[4] has concluded that:

> "Water crisis would not be due to physical water scarcity but rather to water resources mismanagement, or in other words, to poor water resources governance" (Peter P. Rogers et al, 2004).

Another major work, in the same realistic and positive direction, has been concluded recently by Professor Terjia Tvedt of Bergen University, Norway[5] on *"A Journey into the Future of Water"*. He sited, in a documentary, the major water projects, e.g, Toshke Valley to reclaim a large part of the desert in Southern Egypt, desalinization projects in California (USA), and others in China, Bangladesh, as part of the human strive to cope with the limitations driven by the physical aspects of water scarcity. *The focus here* is on *how the management of fresh water supply* will determine political and economical development worldwide.

In this context, the paradigm of Integrated Water Resources has emerged and is gaining more recognition and higher commitment for implementation, as it embodies all aspects of: engineering, social, economic, environmental, perceptual, ecological, and organizational, and applying a holistic and comprehensive approach, using the rigorous methodology of complexity as a science and system analysis.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a strategic management approach that recognizes the diversity and interdependence of water users in a social, environmental, economic and cultural context, while identifying the potential for conflicting demands on water resources. As such, IWRM requires a strategic approach to the management of water resources that accounts for upstream and downstream relationships between stakeholders and the water requirements of the environment.

II. What about the Arab Regional Water Realities?

In the Arab Region, water scarcity, uneven geographical and seasonal distribution, incomplete access to water and sanitation services in remote areas, as well as pollution and degradation of aquatic ecosystems have in some cases had severely limiting effects on development options for poor communities and other marginalized groups.

The following *key crisis elements* represent the root causes of conflicts in the region and especially on shared international water. Such conflicts are at their highest any where in the world. Available recent literature testifies that the development of the Arab[6] water sector is confronting such mounting water challenges, not only because of water shortages in many countries, but also proliferation of disputes over shared water resources.

- The Arab Region is experiencing one of the fastest growing water deficits

The majority of the countries in the Region have been *consuming more water than their renewable supply* for quite some time. However, this is no longer an option due to its high costs and negative environmental consequences that have been leading to a vicious cycle linking the deteriorating status of water resources, in terms of quantity and quality, to the deteriorating livelihoods in the Region.

About 45 million of the region's population (16 percent) is lacking safe water, and more than 80 million people are lacking safe sanitation facilities. The most recent figures indicate that poverty affects around 10 per cent of the population in Jordan and Tunisia, about 20 per cent in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco, 40 per cent in Yemen and 46 per cent in Mauritania.

In addition to the water deficit, there is *a rampant food deficit* as well. The region is one of the largest food importers and forecasts under whatever scenario indicate that the region will remain in a permanent food deficit for a long time in the future.

Water issues deserve also to be looked upon from a professional institutional point of view that

would establish the solid basis for a better understanding of the issue and the appropriate approach to the formulation of policy in this regard.

- Proliferation of disputes over shared water resources.

Water conflicts may occur for many reasons. *Reasons for potential conflict* include: interdependence of people and responsibilities; jurisdictional ambiguities; functional overlap; competition for scarce resources; differences in organizational status and influence; incompatible objectives and methods; differences in behavioural styles; differences in information; distortions in communications; unmet expectations; unmet needs or interests; unequal power or authority; misperceptions; and others.

Water issues are regarded *highly as acute conflicts in the Arab Region* and should be given due attention in analysis and resolution. One important aspect to be looked upon is the interaction between what is global and what is regional regarding water issues, and how these two levels of handling affect the national security of states. *The formulation and re-formulation of foreign policies* have to be designed in a way to suit well the changing international positions regarding access of the country in concern to replenishing water resources.

Together with the stumbling peace process, disputes relating to accessibility and to replenishing clean water resources have caused uncertainty and instability in the region. One such dispute related to water issues spread as far as Anatolia incorporating Turkey, Syria, and Iraq in a severe dispute around the appropriation of the Euphrates water supply. Among Israel, Occupied Palestine, Syria and Jordan another dispute relating to Lake Tiberius and the Jordan River Basin together with the disputed water resources in the Aquifers that are supposed to be shared by Israel and the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and The Gaza Strip.

Another dispute runs along *the River Nile*. However, it is less severe and not as intense between the ten countries that share the river, whether upstream or downstream. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) launched in 1999 is progressing towards more collaborative actions among Nile riparian (*= located along the riverbank*) countries.

III. Is diplomacy coping with these developments in the water arena?

States Systems are the product of history, in the sense that they develop over a period of time. Numerous conventions and institutions are initiated by the international community to facilitate dialogue among states. These are helping in shaping an international system, and at one stage of development may impede new and constructive achievements at the next. To analyze the influence of diplomacy on the closely knit relations of the independent states which constitute the international society of today requires both an awareness of the nature of politics and a historian's responsiveness to the dilemmas of order and change in the progress of events.

There is a trend among serious researchers and models of those who take the natural sciences, particularly physics, as a framework and try to fit past and present international practice into it. They contributed to diplomacy as a science and recognized it as "complex human and social activity that eludes numerate calculations". However, they tend to put more stress on conflict and less on cooperation than diplomatic reality taken as a whole. It is important here to stress that diplomacy is more and more dependent on practical experience.

Water Diplomacy is applied to bilateral and multilateral negotiations on water issues between and among states. Water diplomacy is about dialogue, negotiation and reconciling conflicting interests among riparian states. It involves the institutional capacity and power politics of states.

There is a wealth of diplomatic experiences, where the technical and political approaches are integrated within the same negotiation process. Most notable examples are: The negotiation under the United Nations Convention of 1997 on non-Navigational Uses of the International Watercourses, and the Madrid formula of a multitrack peace process in the Middle East.

Both examples have proven this integration of political and technical issues is the way to bring about compromises in the question of water distribution and to improve the psycho-political setting for resolution of the larger political struggle.

Ambassador Dr. Magdy A. Hefny, Visiting Professor at the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), University of Malta, during lecturing at MEDAC the module: Simulation Exercises on International Water Conflicts and Management and Resolution in the MENA Region.
Above (L to R): MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen C. Calleya, Ambassador Dr. Magdy A. Hefny.
Below: group photo of Amb. Hefny with MEDAC students and Prof. Calleya.

In the last analysis, *water diplomacy* (Bilateral and Multilateral) is a tool for realizing certain objectives related to a state's national interest. It is about dialogue, negotiation and reconciling conflictual interests among riparian states. It has the same characteristics referred to earlier with the aim of concluding water agreements, within the strategy and plans of foreign policy and national security of states. At *the multilateral level, the* decision making process is different. The best example is the International Law Commission's work over 25 years or more to bring about a text that is acceptable to the United Nations General Assembly on the 1997 Water Convention.

Water Diplomacy Practised through the 1991 Madrid Multilateral Negotiation for Peace in the Middle East

Two arenas were arranged for the negotiations: multilateral and bilateral. There were *five multilateral groups* that emerged from the multilateral conference in Moscow in January 1992, on: water, environment, refugees, regional security and arms control, and regional economic development; a Steering Committee oversaw the works of these five committees. In each of the five multilateral groups there were representatives of the core parties (with the exception of Syria and Lebanon) and of several countries who wished to be involved as facilitators, sponsors and potential donors. These meetings served to promote bilateral negotiations, discuss projects that could be implemented when peace is achieved, to acquaint the parties' teams with the issues and positions that would constitute the essence of the negotiations.

The Gavel Holder (Chair) of the multilateral group on water was the US delegate.The group met several times (Moscow, January 1992; Vienna, May 1992; Washington, September 1992; Geneva, April 1993; Beijing, October 1993; Muscat, April 1994; Athens, November 1994; Amman, June 1995); its work was discontinued in 1996. A proposal to establish the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC) was endorsed by the group at its Beijing meeting, and this centre has been operating in Muscat, Oman, with full Israeli participation among the other regional parties.

While the bilateral negotiations were under way, there were a few instances of mismatch and conflict between the two arenas, in the sense that what was presented in the multilateral talks to be the purview of the bilaterals and was sent there for discussion was not accepted in the bilaterals as a legitimate item on the agenda by one party or another. As one of the principal participants in the water multilateral talks, Haddadin concluded that "Those multilateral talks, as their objective stated, were not meant to resolve disputes, but were meant to enhance the environment of the bilateral, and were in fact ineffective and almost unproductive" (Haddadin, 2002b, p. 254).

Still, the multilaterals may have served to clarify interests and positions and to prepare some of the background for the bilaterals. It remains for a historian to review in perspective the operation of the two parallel arenas and conclude whether this mechanism was, or at least could have been, useful in this particular case, and then to draw lessons for other situations.

The concept itself seems attractive enough to be explored more and with potential sponsors and donors, and a parallel bilateral arena in which the "hard negotiations" are conducted. But maybe what seems to be reasonable and convincing in the multilateral arena creates a stumbling block in the bilateral forum, as happened at least once in the negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations that convened in parallel with the Israel–Jordan meetings. Better coordination between the two arenas might have improved the efficacy of the two-arena mechanism. In any case, the entire Water Agreement of the 1994 Peace Treaty was developed in the bilateral arena.

The bilateral arena itself was not a single and permanent structure. It changed dynamically, from meetings of the water groups sitting opposite each other across the table, to corridor meetings of the leaders of the groups and informal chats among members, then back to formal meetings of the entire group. A combined group on several topics – water, energy, and environment – was convened, in an attempt to modify the dynamics of the discussions at a point when they seemed to stall.

IV. How will diplomats, in practice, cope with the emerging trends of the new world water developments?

It is advocated to use diplomacy as a tool for realizing certain objectives related to a state's national interest. However, diplomats have to see first what kind of society we are living in. It is well recognized

that we are living in a society known as knowledge and experience based society and economy. A diplomat's mission, in simple terms is to establish peace, security, and stability world wide. For diplomacy to be relevant to today's world, diplomats, in my view, have to use new innovative tools commensurate with the nature of the society they live in. In water diplomacy, the focus is on reaching agreements in international fora, whether regionally or internationally. The following are tools which may be used:

- Action Research is Advocated to be Used as a Methodology

Action Research or action based on research, in a specific case, is the method, that is advocated here, as it guarantees participation of the concerned parties in a conflict, and I believe in what Kurt Lewin (the father of Action Research), emphasized that good practice is the main source of good theory and *vice versa*.

> "The positive relationship between theory and practice is true with regard to conflict resolution. What we think about conflict and how we act towards it are so mutually influential" (Lewin, 1948, Marrow 1969).

- Using Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as a Pivotal Approach to Conflict Resolution:

IWRM is an excellent approach to resolve water conflicts and end polarization as well as to find an impasse in complex situations. This is because IWRM is based on balancing all interests and securing equitable distribution of benefits from the improved management of water. Certain instruments and approaches that are inherent to IWRM, such as stakeholder participation and conflict management tools, allow competing claims to be moderated through well informed processes.

- *Participation* requires that stakeholders at all levels of the social structure have an impact on decisions of water management. Participation is about taking responsibility, recognizing the effect of sectoral actions on other water users and aquatic ecosystems and accepting the need for change to improve the efficiency of water use and recognize other water users' rights. Therefore, participation is an instrument that can be used to pursue an appropriate balance and achieve long-lasting consensus and common agreement between different users of water.

- *Using intervention tools* (facilitation, mediation, fact-finding, and arbitration), usually involves a combination of these tools. These tools are used within IWRM approaches to encourage parties to move beyond positional bargaining and the claim/counter claim process. They are also used to try to help parties identify which interests are behind each side's position, and to jointly construct "win-win" solutions based on meeting those interests.

- *Applying decision support modelling tools* (optimization, simulation, scenario building and analysis, multi criteria analysis, shared vision modelling, etc.) are heavily relied upon in IWRM as means to facilitate and support relevant decision making processes. Examples of such categories include the following:

- *Optimization modelling* goes beyond simulation and produces ideas on the best policy or investment options given certain assumptions and constraints.
- *Valuation* is an important tool to support conflict management, and can facilitate the process of sharing benefits (rather than simply sharing water).
- *Shared vision modelling* is best used in multi stakeholder, multi issue situations. As parties begin to confront the need to plan for growing scarcity of water under competing demands, it is highly useful to bring sectors together.
- *Consensus building tools* are mainly used within IWRM to facilitate intersectoral dialogue regarding water policy development. It is best used in situations of low to medium conflict and tension. However, it can sometimes be useful where parties are in major conflict and have unsuccessfully tried legal or other high-cost approaches. Examples of consensus building tools include the following :
    - *Joint training*, which brings parties in conflict together to jointly learn about dispute management, consensus building, and IWRM in general.

- *Policy dialogue*, which brings stakeholders together with some end in sight, e.g. to develop a major policy or regulations.
- *Strategic conflict assessments*, which can be used as early intervention systems for intervening in conflicts and, if possible, for preventing conflicts from occurring.

Water interest-based negotiations are sometimes undertaken by unassisted individuals, but more often use a neutral party to create and manage the process. Such negotiations have been successfully used in many situations, including agreements to cost sharing and allocation formulae, regulatory implementation, design and construction of water infrastructure, and in developing national and/or regional plans for IWRM.

- Using Bench Marking & Bench Learning in their Relation to Water Conflict Resolution

In this regard, we need to depict the Arab detailed success stories and experiences in negotiation and concluding water agreements by diplomats, scientists, engineers, and researchers, who, in these difficult circumstances, demonstrated wisdom that enabled them to mitigate and resolve conflicts in the water sector. Their actions and success stories are used as a tool for learning and could provide guidance for others who want to do the right thing in circumstances that are similarly difficult. Many of these experience stories of moral leadership and stewardship could be illustrated with presentation of their practices.

- Building a Shared Vision Related to Using Water as a Catalytic Medium for Peace and Human Security, and Having a Monitoring Mechanism

The prospect for an *Arab Water Vision*, with respect to concepts and main strategic components, implies a critical review of the previous endeavors towards sustainable water resources development. It identifies the constraints, which impeded their adequate implementation, in order to learn lessons and to be used as constructive guidelines. In view of the above, the Arab Water Vision 2030, includes the following approaches and trends:

1. Vision for Optimizing Water Resources Supplies
2. Vision for Rationalizing Water Resources Demands
3. Vision for Water Conservation and Protection
4. Vision for supporting institutional and legislative frameworks

However, there is a need to monitor the implementation of such a vision. And there is a need to pay special attention to water in its relation to peace and human security.

V. Istanbul World Water Forum Five (March 2009) Is Facing the Challenge of "Bridging Divides for Water"

Since 1997, the World Water Council[7] has organized together with a host country, several World Water Fora. Such Fora have been held in Morocco (1997), The Netherlands (2000), Japan (2003) and Mexico (2006). At present preparations are fully on going for the 5th World Water Forum (WWF5), which is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2009. *What is new in the 5th World Water Forum, in Istanbul, Turkey? The main theme this time is "Bridging Divides for Water".* It seems that there is a new shift in the concept, principles and methodology of the Forum if it is compared to previous Fora. This time a set-up of the programme is chosen, consisting of six themes and the main theme of WWF5 is *Bridging Divides for Water* and under each theme there are about four topics (for more details see www.worldwaterforum5.org)

The advent of the *Istanbul Fifth World Water Forum* in March 2009 has its own value in reviewing *the state of the world's water. Is it heading towards a real water crisis with its implications on world peace and security or is it a myth?* Its concepts and methodology create a momentum for more investigation in this area. It also represents a learning journey, in which diplomats should reflect on the Forum results and its impact on the formulation of the foreign policy of states in general and on water diplomacy approaches and tools in particular.

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الدكتور عصمت عبد المجيد، بيان ألقاه سيادته في الاحتفال بيوم الدبلوماسية المصرية في 15 مارس 1988 ، نشر بمجلة الأهرام الاقتصادي بتاريخ 28 مارس 1988.

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FOOTNOTES

[1] Complexity is emerging as a new science that touches everything that is common to us and to the nature to which we belong.
[2] Botin Foundation is based in Spain (Santander), it is dedicated to scientific research in the area of water.
[3] Peter P. Rogers, and M. Ramón Llamas & Luis Martínez-Cortina, Water Crisis: Myth or Reality? Marcelino BotinWater Forum 2004
[4] The Santander Workshop is sponsored by the Marcelino Botin Foundation, Harvard University and Complutense University of Madrid.
[5] "A Journey in the Future of Water" is a TV documentary in three parts. It is filmed in 25 countries.
[6] The Arab countries are the countries which are members of the Arab League, there are 21 countries.
[7] Head office of the World Water Council is in Marseille, France, web site: www.worldwatercouncil.org

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- Director of The Regional Center for Studies and Research of Water Uses Ethics (RCWE), Cairo, since 15th November 2003
- Vice Chairman of the Egyptian Council for Ethics of Scientific Research and Technology, Academy of Science and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education, since 2003
- Vice Chairman of The Egyptian Association of Strategic Thinking (EAST), since 2002
- Advisor to H.E. the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, 2002/2003.
- Diplomat by profession: Ambassador to the Royal Kingdom of Norway (1997-2000). And Ambassador of Egypt to Ethiopia (1991-1995)

Academic Teaching:

- Visiting Professor of Political Economy of Africa at Cairo University (Institute of African Studies and Research), (2000/2003).
- Professor of Negotiation Skills Cross Culture, for MIBA program at The Arab Academy for Science and Technology (Advanced Management Institute), Cairo (2001 & 2002).
- Visiting Professor at the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta, since February 2004 to date. Instructor for the module: Simulation Exercises on International Water Conflicts and Management and Resolution in the MENA Region.
- Guest Researcher at The University of Bergen, Norway, (fall semester of 2000).
- Member of The International Water Academy (TIWA), Oslo, Norway, 2001 & 2002, and Chancellor for Africa, and member of the Advisory Committee of the Board of The International Water Academy, Oslo (Norway).
- Dr. Hefny was part of one of the Panels in "TIWA's Conference on Water for the Poorest", Stavanger, Norway, September 2003.

Training/Facilitation Experience:

- Member of Global Society of Organizational Learning Network, Boston, USA, since 1999
- Coordinator of SOL Egypt within the Global SOL Network, since 1999
- Participated in Workshops: Core Course on Organizational Learning in Stockholm, Sweden (1999), Executive Champion Workshop in Ein El Sokhna,

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Ambassador Dr. Magdy A. Hefny

Egypt (2002), InfoFactory Workshop sponsored by Telia and Erickson, Stockholm (1999), Action Research Workshop, May 2002, Are (Sweden). And part of the organizing team of SoL Global Forum "Learning in Organizations - Inventing Desired Futures in a Global Society" Finland, 2003.

- Facilitator and trainer in the program of SETTIC on Business Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, Ramses Hilton, Cairo, February 2006
- Facilitator of workshops and seminars organized by the Regional Center for Water Ethics (RCWE) since 2003, on water ethics, water negotiation and communication skills, in Cairo and Oman (Muscat) in March 2008, as part of the program of the Arab Network for Water Ethics,
- Facilitator of a workshop in Alexandria (Egypt) for four International Deutsche Schulen (Alexandria, Prague, Palestine, Munich, and Cairo), within a planned establishment of "*an International Water Learning Lab*", March 2007
- Member of a group of experts on "Education for Sustainable Development", and participated in the United Nations Conference for ESD in Bonn, Germany in December 2006
- Facilitator of the program of GTZ, entitled "Trip to Germany", a program of acculturation and orientation of Egyptian nationals working in the GTZ in Cairo, November 2007, and January 2008
- Dr. Hefny has been part of a team of instructors at Cairo Delta Barrage for the "Program of Young Water Professionals" on "International Waters of Africa, Vision, Challenges and Actions" in 2001, and 2002 course on Water Conflicts and Negotiation Skills.
- He has been part of the Nile Workshops organized by The Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (EAWAG) in Zurich, Switzerland, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- He joined as trainer/facilitator of the Eastern Nile Workshop in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) for water professionals of different ministries and institutions in Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan, January 2004.
- Areas of Facilitation, Training, and Consultancy are: Human Resources Development and Management, Leadership and Personal Mastery, Team Learning, Dialogue and its Tools, Systems Thinking, the Art of Listening, Paraphrasing, Knowledge Management, Organizational Learning International Trade, International Relations, International Waters of Africa and the Nile, Conflict Resolution,

Diplomatic Career:

- Member of the Egyptian Permanent Delegation to the United Nations-Geneva, as Counselor of Economic Affairs (1981-1985) and Part of Egyptian Delegations to the United Nations Economic Fora in Geneva and New York.
- Participated in The Summit Conferences of The Organization of African Unity, and Ministerial Conferences of The Economic Commission for Africa,
- Chairman of several International meetings within these conferences and Spokesman of The Group of 77 at UNCTAD VI, 1983 Conference
- First Chairman of The Central Organ of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution within the Organization of African Unity (1993/1994)
- Served in Egyptian Embassies abroad: 3rd Secretary in Berlin, Germany (1969-1973), 1st Secretary in Wellington, New Zealand (1975-1979), Counselor for Economic Affairs in Geneva, Switzerland (1981-1985), Ambassador in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ambassador in Oslo, Norway (1997-2000)

Education:

- Ph.D. In Economics – Hochschule fur Ökonomie, Berlin, Germany (1973)
- Diploma in Economic Planning, Institute of National Planning, Cairo (1964)
- B.Com. in Business Administration, Cairo University (1962)

Languages:
Arabic is the mother tongue, English (second language). Knowledge of German and French as a second language

About MEDAC

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) is an institution of higher learning offering advanced degrees in diplomacy with a focus on Mediterranean issues. The programme consists of courses in International Law, International Economics, International Relations, Diplomatic History and the practice of diplomacy.

MEDAC was established in 1990 pursuant to an agreement between the governments of Malta and Switzerland. The Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) was among its first foreign partners.

With Malta's membership in the European Union and with the financial support of the Arab League MEDAC, more than ever, is emphasizing the Euro-Mediterranean dimension by building bridges between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. MEDAC is a member of the European Diplomatic Training Initiative (EDTI), a group of EU diplomatic academies training EU personnel. The Academy is also part of the MEAM/MEMA Network which organises a programme of studies leading to a Master degree in Euro-Mediterranean Affairs. MEDAC is also a member of the Advisory Board of the journal Europe's World. MEDAC is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). MEDAC has established close strategic relationships with a large number of prestigious international diplomatic institutions including the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Cairo.

Academy Courses

- Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies (M.A.)
- Master of Diplomacy (M. Dip.)
- Diploma in Diplomacy (DDS)

The programme of Master of Diplomacy (M.Dip.) course is designed for junior diplomats with some field experience. They are instructed in the same core disciplines as the M.A. students (Diplomatic History, International Relations, International Economics, International Law as well as selected lectures in diplomacy) but with a special emphasis on diplomatic practice, languages, public speaking and on-line skills.

The course covers two semesters, from October to June, and includes field trips to European and Mediterranean countries. (See details of all courses on our website: **www.MED-ACademy.org**)